

1950's. After that nothing was ever built on the site, and later on the property was bought by Provo City which is the present land

About 2 kms up-canyon from the Olmsted Power Plant is a place that used to be called **Wicks** or **Wick's Place**. Today there are six homes or cottages on the north side of the road and another home and very large log cabin restaurant on the south side against the cliffs. The story behind this place comes by way of Carol Bartlett Hoover. Wick was her father.

It all started in Wyoming when two Bartlett brothers purchased a ranch near Saratoga. During the Depression, the two families couldn't make enough money off the land to survive, so they flipped a coin. Willis Earl(Wick) Bartlett lost, so he moved out of Wyoming and settled in Provo Canyon. Wick was a nick name given to him in his younger years, a name that stayed with him all his life. People called him and the location Wicks and his daughter states that everyone thought it was their family's last name.

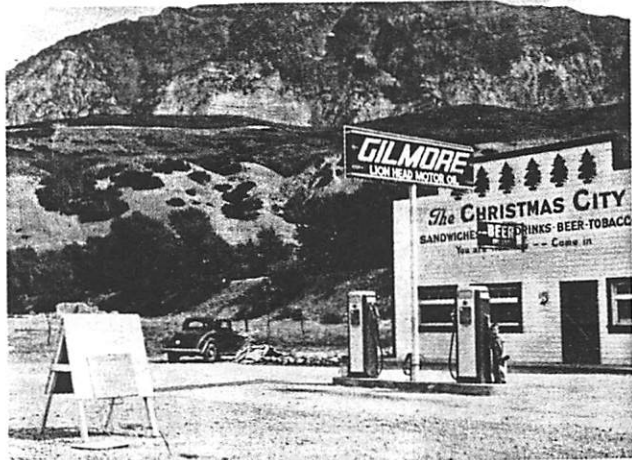
At first the Bartlett family lived in the rear of a gas station owned by Utah Oil Company. The station was on the south side of the road, where the big log restaurant is today. In June 1932, Wick told Utah Oil he wanted to either buy the station or build another one across the highway. He ended up buying it. Wick's Place not only served gas, but it also was a small store and restaurant, with a dance hall on the west side. Later he purchased the homes across the road from the Utoco station and converted some of the cabins into a small resort-type motel. On the west side of the gas station-restaurant, was a shaded picnic site. Just east of the station was a small zoo of sorts, with half a dozen cages. Carol remembers one bear, a monkey and a porcupine.

In the mid-1950's, Wick retired and sold the business to Ken and Hazel Craven. For many years Wick and his wife Maud continued to live in the home across the highway north of the station while managing the cabins. But after nearly 40 years in the canyon, disaster struck. Wick was hit by a car as he walked across the highway and was killed. That was in November of 1971. When he died, she never went back to her home to live.

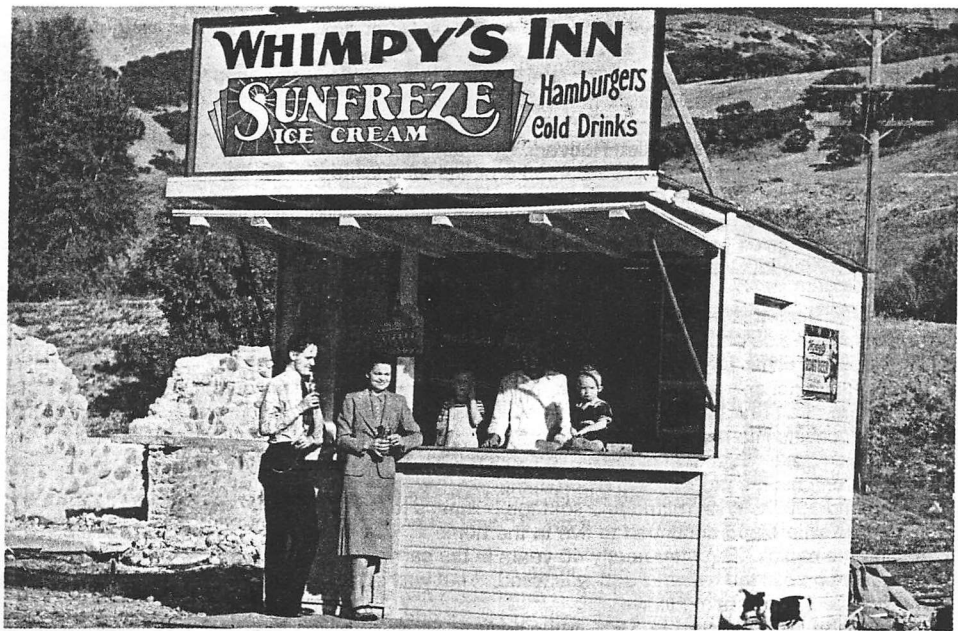
Springdell was formed in 1904 after several years in which the land was used only as a campground and recreational area. A group of men obtained a 99 year lease from the government allowing them to settle the meadow area permanently. There were 13 families originally involved. These men formed a corporation and would own and operate the land as joint-stockholders. At the end of the 99 year period the land would then convert into the private ownership of all property owners.

Some of the stockholders built homes or cabins immediately, while others waited and built later. Over the years, the cabins got larger and better, and because it's so close to the valley, some are now full sized homes and are lived in year-round. Originally, the place was called Springdell Resort Co., but today the company name is Springdell Inc.

Just above Springdell is **Canyon Glen Picnic Grounds**. It is presently owned and operated by Utah County, but it was different in the good old days. In 1909, the Cañon Glen Park Company purchased land in that area from DeWitt C. Flanagan. Little has been found of the situation in those early days, but according to several former canyon residents, in the 1930's the site had a small store which sold candy and sandwiches, and had pinball machines supplied by Christmas City owner Mel Close. There was also picnic and camping sites on both sides of the river and a baseball diamond.



Christmas City gas station and beer joint in 1939. Cascade Peak in the background(Wayne Close foto).



Whimpy's Inn lasted only one summer--1938. The next year Christmas City was built in its place(Wayne Close foto).

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